(12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization
International Bureau

(43) International Publication Date
28 April 2005 (28.04.2005)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 2005/038754 A2

(51) International Patent Classification[7]: G09F

(21) International Application Number: PCT/US2004/033891

(22) International Filing Date: 15 October 2004 (15.10.2004)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:
60/511,413 15 October 2003 (15.10.2003) US

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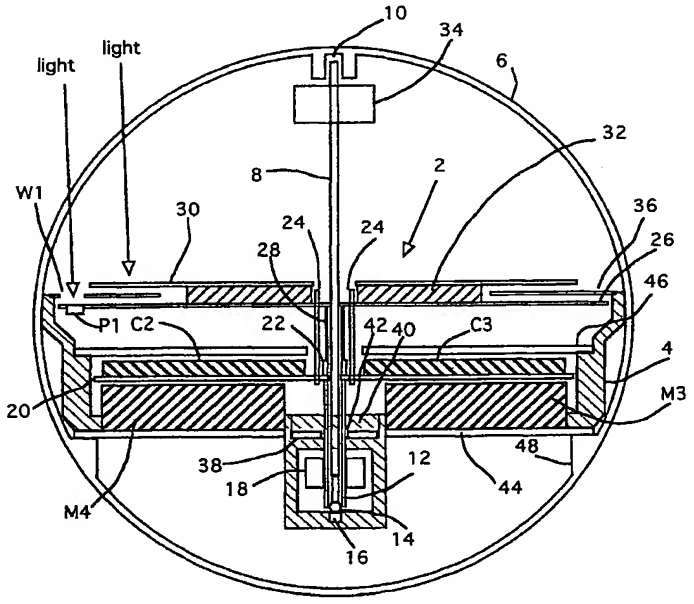
(81) Designated States *(unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of national protection available)*: AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NA, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.

(84) Designated States *(unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of regional protection available)*: ARIPO (BW, GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, NA, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Published:
— *without international search report and to be republished upon receipt of that report*

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

(54) Title: OPTICALLY COMMUTATED SELF-ROTATING DRIVE MECHANISM



(57) Abstract: A self-rotating enclosure (6) containing an electric motor (4) particularly suited for use in very low power and low speed applications, including a counter-torque producing magnet (34). The motor comprises magnets (M3,M4) which generate magnetic fields to interact with currents in coils of wire (C2,C3) to generate relative rotational motion between an armature assembly (2) and the motor case (4). A shutter (36) with a window (W1) controls light incident on photoresistor (PI) to energize a coil, (C2), and similarly other photoresistors control other coils to cooperatively generate relative rotation. The preferred embodiment uses photovoltaic cells (30) to provide the electric current.

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